

The Baptist Record

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Renick family ties run deep in Pine Grove community

By Lola M. Autry

This is the story of three brothers, born into a God-fearing family in the Pine Grove Community of rural Benton County. Their father was a farmer, their mother a homemaker. Music, usually hymns, was a very important part of their lives. There were three more brothers, three sisters, and the parents who made up this family choir.

Pine Grove Church was the focal point of the community. Although regular worship service was only on the third Sunday morning of each month, religious teaching and influence was not lacking.

Eventually, the three brothers of this story became preachers. All were called to the ministry and ordained at the home church. All moved away.

The oldest, Ottis B. Renick, became pastor of the church where he was ordained, and later pastored other churches in Mississippi.

Dennis M. Renick, the middle in age of the three, was attending New Orleans Seminary when he

received a letter from his cousin, Ewat A. Autry, who was pastor of Central Avenue Church in Memphis. The letter stated that E.P. Baker, pastor of LaBelle Place Church in Memphis, was seriously ill and needed someone to supply for him. Would Dennis be interested?

The call was for a little more than 37 days.

Baker died, and Dennis was asked to be pastor. He stayed for more than 37 years. In 1972 he received an honorary doctorate degree from Union University, Jackson, Tenn.

The third and youngest of the brothers, Percy A. Renick, was led to Christ through the preaching of his brother Ottis. On May 13, 1994, he was inducted into the Fifty Year Club of Mississippi College, his alma mater. Percy went from Mississippi College to Southwestern Seminary where he received his bachelor of divinity and master of theology degrees.

He pastored 16 years in Fort Worth at Eastover Church and 10 years at East Temple Church, Dallas, before becoming director of missions of Alachua Association in Florida.

But this story begins many years before those happenings. It began with a home that was special and a church that was special, and no matter where the grown-up children lived, there was little they



Dennis and Ruby, Percy and Mildred Renick

liked better than to gather at those places and sing and laugh and reminisce. Gradually the home folk became aware that both Dennis and Percy had fallen in love.

On June 30, 1944, at LaBelle Place Church Dennis Renick and Ruby Talbot, and Percy Renick and Mildred Hillhouse stood before Ottis Renick and were married.

The names of the men members of the wedding party read like a Baptist Who's Who of Preachers. Dennis' best man was Hubert Hammett. Groomsmen were Clifford Smyly and Sollie Smith. Percy's best man was Donald Bennett. Groomsmen were Brooks Ramsey and P.O. Davidson.

Ruby, Dennis' bride, entered on the arm of Lawrence T. Lowrey, president of Blue Mountain College. She had been his secretary at the college. Percy's bride, Millie, was given in marriage by her father, E.G. Hillhouse.

Fifty years have passed. During that time Ottis was "called home."

Dennis and Ruby have been busy about the work of the churches they served. Their son Monty has grown up. After his retirement from LaBelle Haven, Dec. 31, 1975, Dennis became interim pastor of Forrest Hill Church for one year, then became pastor of Poplar Avenue Church. Open heart surgery caused him to

give up this pastorate, but he later served as interim pastor and then associate pastor of Boulevard Church. He resigned that place on Dec. 31, 1993. He is 87 years old, but still carries on a regular program of hospital visitation.

Percy and Millie traveled farther from home than the others. After they left his first pastorate at Ellison Ridge Church in Louisville, they served in Texas, then Florida where he was selected by Stetson University and the Florida Baptist Theological College as outstanding director of missions for a year.

In 1992 Percy and Millie retired and moved to Collierville, Tenn., but retirement was short. He was soon called to pastor Mineral Wells Church, and is serving there now.

Both men and their wives celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries with a gathering of friends and family on June 25 of this year at the old home church — Pine Grove, near Hickory Flat. There was singing and laughter

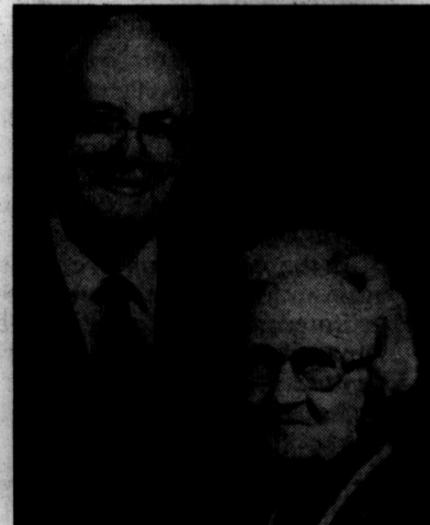
and reminiscing. There was a place of honor also for brother Ottis — in the memory of all who gathered that day. And there was celebration.

Fifty years after that double ceremony, the two couples remembered their vows to each other, and their promises kept to the Lord. The brothers are preachers, but God called their wives to be their helpmeets, and they have not failed.

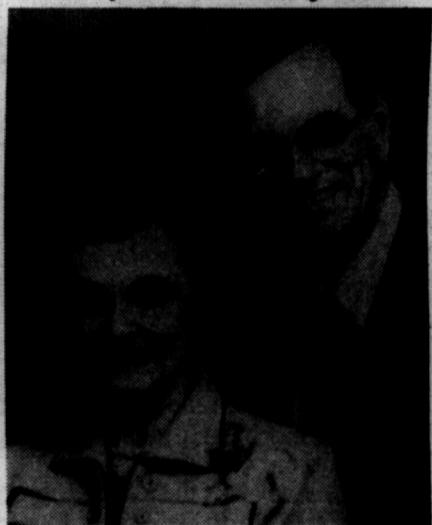
On a huge beech tree beside a little creek, down in a hollow near the place they love so well there is a carving — put there many years ago. It reads: "Dennis M. Renick loves Ruby Talbot." The feeling has been mutual for more than half a century.

Surely somewhere in the hills and hollows of the home place there must be another carving that reads, "Percy A. Renick loves Millie Hillhouse." Still another could be added: "And they all love the Lord."

Autry lives in Hickory Flat.



Dennis and Ruby Renick



Percy and Mildred Renick

STORY OF THE DAY

Remnants of the long-lost airplane that carried five Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) missionaries to their martyrdom in a remote South American jungle have been discovered, rekindling interest in a story that made headlines across the world nearly four decades ago. Nate Saint, pilot of the small Piper aircraft, and four other men were massacred on Jan. 8, 1956, while attempting to make contact with the Auca tribe in Ecuador. The Aucas, known for their fierce distrust of outsiders, killed the missionaries after they landed near the banks of the Curaray River. Present-day MAF pilot Bill Clapp realized a long-held dream when he found a seven-foot section of the Piper on the river's bank June 4, 1994, after heavy tropical storms apparently uncovered it. The Aucas were successfully contacted 19 months after the killings by the sister of Nate Saint and the wife of Jim Elliot, one of the other missionaries. A decade later, Saint's daughter was baptized by two of her father's killers who had become leaders in their church. The Huaorani tribe, as the Aucas are now known, finally received a New Testament in their language in 1992.

STORY OF THE DAY

If hanging out in church singles groups hasn't helped improve your social life, religious humorist Paul Lintern of Minneapolis thinks maybe you're going about it in the wrong way. Lintern shared with USA Today a few suggestions for breaking the ice with that spiritually-inclined single person who just caught your eye. Try these lines:

- "Hi! Is this pew taken?"
- "My prayers are answered!"
- "What's a charismatic like you doing in a mainline place like this?"
- "How about we go over to my place for a little devotional?"
- "Read any good Bible passages lately?"
- "Don't worry, I'm attracted to you in a purely spiritual way."
- "I'm Episcopalian. What's your sign?"
- "I think you're sitting on my Bible."
- Last but certainly not least, Lintern's personal favorite:
- "So, worship here often?"

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Al and Molly Fairchild of Moselle plan a quick return to India after the government there fails to grant them a permanent visa to continue their work as volunteer Baptist missionaries in the Chandigarh area, forcing their return to the U.S.

20 years ago

In an effort to counteract the sensational interest in "The Exorcist" movie, state Baptist leaders invite ministers to a showing of "The Enemy," a spiritually-based film that deals with the true story of demon possession.

50 years ago

Baptist layman Frank Skilton of Blue Mountain challenges the state legislature's recent approval of a tax on illegal alcohol bootlegging, pointing out that "Taxing persons for breaking laws confuses people who are not politicians."

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Queen of hearts

There is a sad but facetious story of the evangelist who railed against smoking when in Florida, mixed bathing when in Kentucky, and making bourbon while in North Carolina.

The churches in those areas have faced such problems for years. If a man works in a distillery, should he be permitted to hold membership in a Baptist church? Can a Baptist farm tobacco and love his neighbor? Should a Christian nurse work in a hospital where abortions are performed? Can you harbor racial hatred in your heart and be a Christian leader?

Now our churches on the Gulf Coast, along the Mississippi River, and near the Choctaw Indian Reservation are facing new problems. The employees of casinos have spiritual needs; can they be ministered to by Baptist churches?

Should a black-jack dealer teach Sunday School? Can a cocktail waitress sing in the choir? Should a church member "just go there to eat" and still be acceptable? What's the difference if a person chooses a \$100 football weekend, or if another chooses to wager \$100 in a casino?

Tax money (receipts) from the casinos has mushroomed. The State Tax Office expected \$60 million for the past 12 months. That amount has already gone over \$95

million.

We get visions of new highways, bridges, or public school needs. Thousands of Mississippians now earn their livings from the casino industry. It is becoming a highly visible silhouette of our state. What is the church to do? What image does the church have with the gaming industry?

Jesus was accused of eating and drinking with publicans and sinners — or perhaps with casino workers and gamblers. His answer: "They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick" (Luke 5:31).

An immoral woman anointed his feet and Jesus accepted the gift, then told the critical Pharisees the parable of the two debtors. He had harsh words: "... Ye... make clean the outside of the cup and the platter, but your inward part is full of... wickedness.... Give alms of such things as ye have; and behold, all things are clean unto you" (Luke 11:39ff).

He drove out the money changers at the temple and accepted prostitutes, robbers, overbearing tax collectors, prodigal sons, and lepers.

It makes one a bit nervous to read this and began thinking of whom he can exclude from the kingdom.

"Our church has an open door policy. We hope to reach the cas-

ino workers just like anyone else," said a Gulf Coast pastor.

"It varies," said another. "Some churches will accept them, but let them know they cannot hold places of leadership."

"They are accepted conditionally. We do not agree with your lifestyle but we will accept you," said a Delta pastor.

All believe the "new man" which was created in righteousness and true holiness is to walk a new path (Eph. 4:24).

A rich and glamorous industry has grown up around us. For many the queen of hearts is attractive, and they become employees or customers. Our children will grow up in the shadow of the spinning roulette wheel and our government will come to depend on the tax receipts.

The ultimate pay-off is in crime and corruption, which are endemic to such operations. Our attitude toward gambling should not be swayed by tax receipts nor popularity; it is not a panacea for revitalizing communities, promoting tourism, nor reversing urban decay.

One day the casinos will play the trump card and then Mississippi will have to pay. Meanwhile there are thousands of employees who sooner or later will have spiritual needs. We must, in the name of Christ, minister to them — every day.

Billy Graham addresses evangelists, states America is in great revival

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Billy Graham said he believes that America is at the center of "a great revival," yet the veteran evangelist urged a "new generation" of preachers from all over North America to "preach an age-old message" at a time when, he states, "there has been a great moral slipping in our country."

Graham was the keynote speaker at the North American Conference for Itinerant Evangelists (NACIE 94) at the Commonwealth Convention Center in Louisville, Ky., which was held June 28-July 1. Some 2,500 evangelists and their spouses, seminary and Bible school students, and pastors gathered to hear his address entitled, "The Evangelist in a Changing World: It's a New Day."

At a press conference prior to the meeting, Graham told reporters, "The world is in a very serious position now economically, militarily, spiritually, and morally. We need a greater emphasis on revival — that is reviving the

church and the church making its impact on the moral fabric of society."

He also noted that evangelists need a greater emphasis on social justice, "but we need to balance between the redemptive gospel and the practical gospel that helps the homeless, the powerless, and the discriminated against — that is a great part of our message," he said.

"Historians will look back, if we live that long, and say this has been a great period of revival — wouldn't it be awful if you slept through it?" he said from the platform. "We're here because of the urgency of the hour. All that we see happening in the world is a preparation for the gospel."

The evangelist pointed out that people today are disillusioned as secular answers have failed them in materialism, politics, drugs, alcohol, sex, and false prophecies and religions. "Seldom has the soil of the human heart and mind been better prepared than today... I've

never seen so many people come to salvation in such a short period of time.

"My prayer is we get a new touch from the Holy Spirit and that this conference might serve for us as a catalyst for evangelism," he said. Graham, honorary chair for NACIE 94, also noted that an evangelist is a gift of God to the church, but many times denominations have ignored the evangelist and his gift and not supported him. He said it was time for seminaries to give the recognition in their courses to the evangelist.

In closing, Graham said, "This is a wonderful day to be alive. It is a day in which God has allowed us to live to see a new dawning for evangelism. Evil is very strong, but God is stronger. Man is on a self-destruction binge, but God is still in the business of turning men's and women's lives around and bringing them to himself."

Governor Brereton Jones opened the conference by welcoming Graham and the delegates to

"YES, YOU ARE WELCOME IN THIS CHURCH, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO BE PATIENT WITH OUR MEMBERS!"



THE FRAGMENTS

Hometown boy makes good

Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Florida votes yes and supports her man. Pastor Jim Henry must have received most of Florida's 3,500 votes in the Southern Baptist Convention election for president. It took place in his hometown of Orlando. The popular pastor received 55% of the votes. Will this become part of the political action in future elections? If so, you had best be from a populous area.

The only time the SBC met in Mississippi was in 1881. The meeting was in Columbus and there were 270 messengers. It would have been a good time for

the Columbus pastor, Henry W. Battle, to make his move. He deferred, and P.H. Mell of Georgia was elected.

In 1973 Owen Cooper was elected president 2,000 miles away from home. The convention did not meet in Yazoo City, but in Portland, Oregon. He was elected again in 1974 by 18,190 messengers in Dallas.

If the convention ever meets again in Mississippi, say in Forest or Lorena, I'll make my political move. Chances are there would be another P.H. Mell of Georgia in the house.

— GH

Kentucky, a state that he said prides itself on its hospitality. "You are here for important work," he said. "Without fear of contradiction, I can tell you that government will not solve the problems of this country. If you don't solve these problems, they may never be solved."

The delegates from 49 states and nine Canadian provinces representing 65 denominations across North America participated in this unique event, the first gathering of itinerant evangelists in North America. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association was joined by some 40 denominations and fel-

lowships including the Fellowship of Canadian Evangelists; the Institute of Evangelism; the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College; and the Salvation Army.

Sterling Huston, chair for NACIE 94, summarized that the purpose of the conference was to encourage, equip, and strengthen the North American itinerant evangelist and his spouse to meet their most pressing needs. "The needs of our society have not changed; nor has the power of the gospel," he said. "But there is a need for added relevancy in the message and methods to relate to the coming 21st century culture."

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Ken Hemphill is top Southwestern search committee nominee

FORT WORTH (BP) — Kenneth S. Hemphill, Southern Baptist church growth specialist and former Virginia pastor, is the Southwestern Seminary search committee's nominee for president of the seminary, Baptist Press has learned.

Hemphill, 46, if elected by the seminary's 40-member board of trustees at a special called meeting

in Fort Worth July 29, will succeed Russell Dilday, who was fired by the trustees March 9 as president of the world's largest seminary. Trustees said they wanted new leadership and were unhappy with Dilday's lack of support for the conservative resurgence. The firing caused considerable controversy across the Southern Baptist Convention.

Miles Seabom Jr., chairman of the trustees' search committee, told Baptist Press the committee came to a "total and excited unanimity" about the nominee but declined to identify the selection prior to the mailing of letters to all the trustees. Seabom is pastor of Birchman Church in Fort Worth.

Hemphill is currently director of the Southern Baptist Center for

Church Growth, a cooperative venture by the SBC Home Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board. Prior to that new position, which he took in August 1992, Hemphill had been pastor of First Baptist in Norfolk, Va., 11 years.

"Ken is a solid, biblical conservative with a brilliant mind and endless ideas. He has built a phenomenal church and exudes enthusiasm for reaching people and growing churches," James T. Draper Jr. said at Hemphill's election to the church growth post. Draper, president of the BSSB, was considered to be a favorite for the seminary post until he publicly said he would not be a candidate.

Hemphill received a doctor of philosophy from Cambridge University in Cambridge, England, and a master of divinity and doctor of ministry from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He also has a bachelor of arts degree from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Interestingly, Hemphill was not one of the six people which news media had reported were high on the search committee's list.

Others named in news reports were Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission; Mark Coppenger, vice president for convention relations of the SBC Executive Committee; Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Church in Austin,

Texas; Timothy George, dean of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.; Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Church in Nashville; and Richard R. Melick Jr., president of Criswell College in Dallas.

Southwestern is the largest, with more than 4,000 students, of the six SBC seminaries. The 86-year-old seminary is located on a 200-acre campus in Fort Worth and has 102 elected faculty with a 1993-94 budget of more than \$22 million.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Gulfshore area to receive protection from gambling

By William H. Perkins Jr.

The Mississippi Gaming Commission on June 30 declared the neighborhood around Gulfshore Baptist Assembly a legal but inappropriate site for casino gambling, and is considering a permanent ban on any gambling development in the area.

Paul Harvey, executive director of the commission, told the state's three gaming commissioners during their regularly-scheduled meeting in Biloxi that the situation in the Henderson Point neighborhood where Gulfshore is located "transcends" the legality of casino development there.

Harvey identified a number of concerns he had with developing the site for a casino operation:

— tight, compacted nature of the residential area.

— "unprecedented" amount of correspondence opposing the site.

— Harrison County Board of Supervisors' unanimous opposition.

— proximity to religious activity.

— petition from local residents with 1,500 validated names, all opposing the site.

— public safety concerns due to lack of infrastructure in the area to handle huge increases in traffic and sewer problems.

"I don't consider it to be a suitable site," he said, adding that he would have a "tremendous problem" recommending the site for a casino operation.

The ballroom atop the Treasure Bay Hotel, where the hearing took place, erupted with applause from local residents and Baptists who had packed the room to register their opposition.

The three gaming commissioners echoed Harvey's statement.

Commissioner Robert Engram of Gulfport said Baptists had done a "glorious job" of convincing him that they didn't want a casino anywhere near Gulfshore.

He was referring to the tidal wave of letters and telephone calls the commission received concerning a proposal — withdrawn just a few days before the hearing — by Spectrum, Inc., to build a 24-hour-a-day casino within sight of the state Baptist campground.

Harvey reported earlier that he was forced to hire temporary staffers to deal with the deluge of mail opposing the casino.

Commissioner W.W. Gresham of Indianola concurred with Harvey and Engram, and commission chairman Stuart Irby of Jackson observed that the executive director and all three commissioners held the same position on the matter.

Paul Jones, executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, asked the gaming commission to impose a 1,000-

yard buffer zone prohibiting gambling development around religious retreats and conference centers recognized as non-profit by the Internal Revenue Service.

"We want you to be proactive," Jones said.

The gaming commissioners approved Harvey's request that legal staff be allowed to study the buffer zone proposal and bring recommendations before the commission.

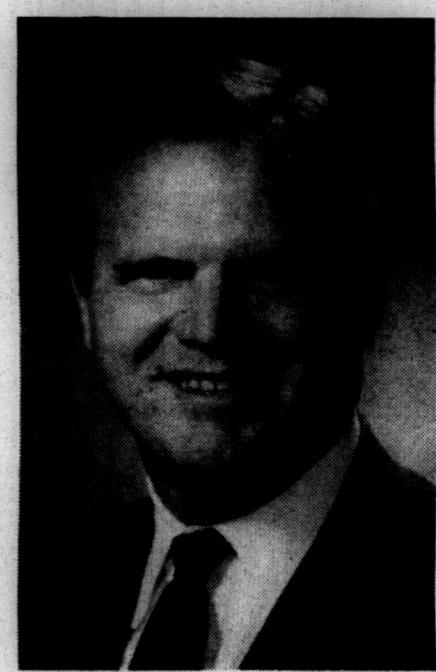
"It's not who's right but what's right. I think we know what's right," Harvey said.

Jones promised to monitor the commission's progress toward an officially-recognized buffer zone.

"Baptists proved that their voice can be heard loud and clear in Mississippi. Thanks to everyone who wrote and called the commission, the mission of Gulfshore will soon be fully and permanently protected," he said.



Stuart Irby Jr. (left), chairman of the Mississippi Gaming Commission, shakes hands with Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, after the commission approved consideration of a permanent gambling ban around Gulfshore Assembly. Paul Jones (right), executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, looks on. Behind Yancey are David Grayson (left), pastor of Belle Fountain Church in Ocean Springs, and Archie Herrin (right), director of missions for Lawrence, Marion, and Walthall counties. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



Hemphill

Hamilton selected as Hinds-Madison DOM

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Eddie Hamilton, 47, resigned the pastorate of Oak Forest Church, Jackson, on July 10 to become the new director of missions for Hinds-Madison Association.

Hamilton, a Tishomingo native, will succeed J.W. Brister, who will retire in August.

Charles Gladney of Madison, chairman of the search committee and member of Ridgecrest Church, Madison, said Hamilton emerged early as a clear choice for the job and was formally selected on July 6.

"Dr. Hamilton has been very involved in associational matters, and we believe he has the ability to lead Hinds-Madison Association into the future. The committee chose him without reservation," Gladney said.

Hamilton, Oak Forest pastor since 1986, received a master of divinity degree in 1975 and a doctor of ministry degree in 1977, both from New Orleans Seminary. He also holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of North Alabama in Florence.

He pastored churches in Carthage, Sumrall, and Meadville, in addition to bivocational pastorate in Tishomingo County while coaching and teaching in the local school system.

Hamilton served as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1990-91; as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in 1985-86; and as

chairman of the MBCB executive committee in 1984-85. He is also a member of the Mississippi College board of trustees.

Hamilton has been president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) state president's fellowship and has served on both the SBC tellers committee and credentials committee.

He and his wife Dorothy have a married daughter, Stephanie Suzanne Fortenberry of Madison, and a 13-year-old son, William.

Gladney said Hamilton will begin the transition to his new job when he joins the Hinds-Madison staff on Aug. 1.



Hamilton



Honduran doctor Lillia de Larios (left) talks with Sybil Davis of Hattiesburg after the annual banquet of the Mississippi Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship May 6 at First Church, Jackson. Davis' husband, Mackie, is a volunteer coordinator for the Mississippi-Honduras Partnership project. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Medical-dental fellowship says goodbye to Honduran patient headed for home

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Members of the Mississippi Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship, in Jackson May 6-7 for their 1994 annual meeting, bade farewell to the Honduran teenager they nursed back to health after an accident last year in his homeland nearly claimed his life.

They also listened intently as a Mississippi physician described events surrounding the January 1994 volunteer mission trip to Honduras that ended in the death of a Brandon teenager.

Young Jose-Carminio Osevera was rushed by air from a Honduran hospital to Mississippi Baptist Center in Jackson on June 25, 1993, after suffering a collision with a truck June 6 while riding a bicycle near his home.

His extensive injuries were more than could be treated in Honduras, and physicians believe he would have died if the Mississippi Brotherhood Department had not coordinated his transport to the United States after learning of his plight from workers involved in the Mississippi-Honduras Partnership project.

Jose was the guest of honor at the fellowship's annual banquet May 6, where he saw for the last time many of the health professionals who guided his year-long recovery.

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and the health professionals involved with Jose donated their services.

Honduran doctor Lillia de Larios flew from Honduras to escort Jose to his native country on the morning after the banquet.

He has continued physical therapy in his homeland.

Family physician Mike Albert of Pearl said he was riding ahead

in another vehicle on Jan. 18 when a flatbed truck overturned near Tela, Honduras, taking the life of Brad Boatner, 17, a member of Park Place Church in Brandon, and injuring 23 others during their annual volunteer medical mission trip to that country.

Albert told the rapt audience at the banquet how he rushed to the scene of the accident and searched through the just-fallen evening darkness for victims of the accident.

The victims were taken to a Tela hospital, where many were treated and released with a variety of injuries.

Four Mississippians with severe injuries, however, were airlifted to the United States along with other trip volunteers by the Mississippi Air National Guard based in Jackson.

The banquet also featured remarks by Henry Love, executive director of the national Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship headquartered in the offices of the Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission in Memphis.

de Larios also spoke on the ongoing Baptist work in Honduras.

Rita Sweatt, wife of Duck Hill Church pastor Lloyd Sweatt, provided music for the banquet.

Clinton physician Ben Nash is president of the fellowship. Clinton nurse Vicki McCall is president of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship.

For more information on the two fellowships, contact the Mississippi Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

Churches expect little effect from refusal of CBF funds

By Greg Warner

(ABP) — The decision by the Southern Baptist Convention to refuse contributions from the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will complicate bookkeeping procedures for many congregations but likely will have little effect on how much money the two organizations receive, according to some of those churches.

Messengers to the SBC voted June 15 to instruct the SBC's agencies and institutions to no longer receive funds channeled through the Fellowship.

Those funds have added a total of \$9 million to SBC coffers since 1991.

By refusing Fellowship money, according to the motion, SBC agencies will preserve the "integrity" of the Cooperative Program, the traditional channel of SBC funding.

But some people on both sides of the issue say the action's underlying intent is to force Fellowship-supporting churches to declare their allegiance to one organization or the other, and may even force a split in the denomination.

"It is an effort to force you to be an either/or church rather than a both/and church," Fellowship Coordinator Cecil Sherman said in a June 21 letter to congregations that support the Fellowship.

But initial reactions from representative churches suggest the SBC vote will have little impact on where local church money ends up.

The action probably "won't make a hill of beans of difference" at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., predicted Pastor Bob Long. Church members there choose between sending their global-missions money to the SBC

or Fellowship. Most who pick the Fellowship still ask that a portion go to some SBC agencies.

Long predicted most church members will continue to support the Fellowship, even if none of their money finds its way back to the SBC. "Most of our people who give to the Fellowship do so to protest the Cooperative Program, and this doesn't change anything," he said.

But the SBC action does change the nature of the Fellowship, which was begun in 1990 as an alternate funding channel — a way to support some SBC agencies while bypassing those that moderates felt were lost to conservative control.

With that role now gone, some conservative leaders hope the Fellowship will split away and form a new denomination. Fellowship leaders insist that is not their intention.

Other observers see the SBC action as mostly symbolic, since it carries no power to dictate local-church actions. Fellowship supporters who still want some of their church contributions to support SBC agencies can find other ways to steer their money to the desired location.

Since the June 15 vote, said David Wilkinson, CBF communications coordinator, the Fellowship office has been "flooded with calls" from church leaders upset with the action, which they see as an infringement on local-church autonomy. "Churches are insisting, 'We are not going to be bullied,'" he said.

The most vulnerable, he said, are those churches that predominantly support the SBC but allow

a handful of members to designate funds to the Fellowship.

First Church, Nashville, Tenn., does not have the Fellowship in its budget but forwards members' contributions to the CBF if requested. "We are in a fairly unique position here," said church administrator Jimmy Dunn, whose church is in the shadow of the SBC Executive Committee building. "We need to handle things as carefully as we can."

South Main Church, Houston, won't be affected either, even though about half the church members have chosen to support the Fellowship, said Phillip Martin, senior educator and administrator. The CBF-bound money goes to the Vision 2000 Plan, which does not fund SBC causes. Another 40% of church members have chosen an "alternate track" developed by Martin that funds some SBC causes and some Fellowship-type ministries directly. About 5% have chosen to support the Cooperative Program.

At Dunwoody Church in suburban Atlanta, church members are asked to choose either the SBC or CBF as the recipient of the missions portion of their contributions, which is 12% of the church's budget. About 18% have chosen the SBC and 16% have chosen the CBF. The rest of the money is placed in a missions escrow fund, and the missions committee will determine at the end of the fiscal year how to spend it.

Warner is editor, Associated Baptist Press. Marv Knox, editor, Kentucky WESTERN RECORDER, contributed to this story.

FMB's Rankin says vote to refuse CBF funds shouldn't hurt missions

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin expressed gratitude June 21 "for the faithful support of many churches" that gave money to the Southern Baptist missions agency "for whatever reason" through the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

But he said the vote by Southern Baptist Convention messengers meeting June 14-16 in Orlando, Fla., directing convention agencies to refuse funds channeled through the CBF is "appropriate in defining and clarifying procedures" for supporting SBC causes.

"We support the autonomy of each local church and its freedom under the lordship of Christ to follow God's leadership in missions support," Rankin stressed in a statement released to Baptist Press.

"We are confident each church will continue to be obedient to God in the matter of supporting the Home and Foreign Mission Boards through the Cooperative Program or designated gifts. I trust that no

individual or church will withdraw support from more than 4,000 foreign missionaries representing Southern Baptists and serving our Lord Jesus Christ around the world because they may disagree with me or other SBC leadership."

Convention messengers in Orlando passed a motion directing SBC agencies to refuse funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a 3-year-old organization of Southern Baptist moderates who oppose the current leadership of the Convention.

The Foreign Mission Board receives far more money channeled through the CBF than any other SBC agency.

Fellowship-channeled gifts to the board totaled more than \$1.6 million last year.

More than \$500,000 has come to the board so far this year, with FMB-designated gifts sent to the CBF in May and early June still to be counted.

In an interview after issuing the statement, Rankin repeatedly stat-

ed his support for the autonomy of local churches and individuals in giving to missions.

"It's their choice whether they want to give to the Foreign Mission Board or not," he said. "I would assume churches that have been designating to the Foreign Mission Board do so because they feel led to do so. I would hope they would continue to be obedient to God in doing so."

He also appealed to Southern Baptists to keep the real priorities in perspective.

"What it's all about is the work of the missionaries," he said, indicating personal or organizational squabbles shouldn't "sabotage" their crucial ministries.

Other SBC agencies may implement the Convention motion — which imposed no specific cutoff date for receiving CBF funds — at different times. FMB officials have decided not to accept funds received by the Fellowship after June 16, the last day of the SBC meeting in Orlando.

Ham radio provides opportunity for unique missions involvement

By Teresa Dickens

Betty Dobbs of Clinton is currently participating in a project that involves three things she dearly loves: travel, missions work, and amateur radio. The unique aspect of the project is that it has taken her to Shkoder, Albania.

Shkoder is located in northern Albania near the Adriatic Sea. Albania, known as Illyria during Bible times, once was the most Stalinist and isolated of the old Communist countries. It also was the world's only official atheistic state until the fall of its Communist/Marxist government in 1991. The traditional religious mix of 70% Muslim, 20% Orthodox, and 10% Catholic has been lost, leaving the 3 million residents of the country searching for something to believe in.

Dobbs' visit to the small, poor European country was prompted by a request from the Brotherhood Commission for a licensed ham radio operator to serve there July 7-26.



The request initially came to her husband Gene, administrative assistant for ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and a licensed operator since 1968. When his schedule would not allow him to go, they asked whether or not his wife was available. She earned her license in 1981 and was assigned the call sign N5DUZ by the Federal Communications Commission.

Betty, vice president of Mississippi's Woman's Missionary Union, first heard about the Albanian project during a prayer conference sponsored by the MBCB May 26 in Hattiesburg. (The call to her husband came the following day.) The project, which began in mid-June, involves teams of volunteers and Foreign Mission Board career personnel going into 400 villages throughout the country showing the "Jesus" film. The goal is to evangelize the rural villages and plant churches.

As to strategy, each three-person team is airlifted into a village with its equipment. After showing the "Jesus" film there, they travel by foot to three other villages over the next three days. On the morning of the fifth day, the team is airlifted back to its base camp. On the seventh day, the team returns to the village they considered most receptive for follow-up. After two days there, they are airlifted back to the base camp for two days of rest then begin the cycle again.

The base camp is where Dobbs fits into the picture. She maintains communication with the teams and pilots via an amateur radio setup at the camp. She also

helps other volunteers with food preparation and camp maintenance.

The base camp at Shkoder is one of two being operated by the Brotherhood Commission. The other camp is six hours away in Tirana, the capital of Albania.

Both camps are rather primitive. The volunteers' basic needs are being met by generators, water purifiers, and cooking units like those used by disaster relief volunteers, shipped in by the Brotherhood Commission. Volunteers bring their own bedding (Dobbs took an air mattress), and at the Shkoder camp, "bathe" in a nearby lake.

The Baptist Record interviewed Dobbs just prior to her departure July 7. Despite the many primitive features and equal amount of "unknowns" about her adventure in Albania, she said she had a "peace about going" and only one "great concern."

"My greatest concern is that I will be able to do the best job I can so the teams can do the best job they can."

Although she has traveled to and through 26 countries and spent hundreds of hours on the radio talking with people around the world, the significance of this project places a greater weight on her task.

"I don't know that I personally will have the opportunity to witness to anyone while I am there," said Dobbs. "But, I will provide support to Christians who are among the first to ever present the gospel to thousands of Albanians. That is why I pray I will be able to do the best job I can."

Editor's note: The Baptist Record encourages readers to pray daily for Betty Dobbs and the other volunteers involved in this project. Pray for their safety, health and strength, and effectiveness in presenting the gospel. Pray also that the Albanians will be receptive to the gospel. The results of the project will be reported when available.



Betty Dobbs

June CP receipts up 4% over last year

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program receipts for June were up 4.34% above the previous year which kept total CP receipts for the year at more than 3% above 1993, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The June total was \$10,886,499 compared to June 1993 of \$10,433,816 or an increase of \$452,682. For the nine months of the fiscal year, total CP receipts stand at \$106,599,758 compared to the same period the previous fiscal year of \$103,343,727.

The year-to-date totals for CP stand at 3.15% above the previous year-to-date totals, or \$3,256,031 increase.

The SBC 1993-94 budget also has been surpassed for the nine months: required for this period is \$103,676,051 but the \$106,599,758 is nearly \$3 million or 2.82% above the budget.

Designated gifts for the year, \$119,209,105, stand at 1.32% (\$1,552,457) ahead of last year although the June 1994 total of \$11,770,875 was 5.26% below June 1993 of \$12,423,898.

Thursday, July 14, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Ministers' Wives officers

Leading the SBC Ministers' Wives Conference for the next year will be (from left): Alice (Mrs. William) Marshall, president, Louisville, Ky.; Emma (Mrs. Bruce) Morgan, vice president, First Church, Griffin, Ga.; Anita (Mrs. Jack) Snell, recording secretary, Hendricks Avenue Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; and Jane (Mrs. Richard) Allison, corresponding secretary, University Church, Hattiesburg. (BP photo by Bob Matthews)

Jackson couple will serve HMB as area consultants

Glenn and Sara Barnes of Jackson have been assigned by the Volunteer Division of the Home Mission Board as National Consultants for Area IV, which includes the 11 westernmost states.

Prior to this assignment, the Barneses served as area associate consultants in Mississippi.

They began their service as HMB volunteer missionaries in 1991 with an assignment at the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans. Since then, they have worked with campground ministry in Gatlinburg, Tenn.; renovated a church nursery and taught Vacation Bible School in Ozark, Mo.; taught bilingual Backyard Bible Clubs and renovated a church in Nogales, Ariz.; and led VBS for children and youths in Oregon and Montana.

Barnes also served as camp pastor for children and youth camps in Oregon. He is retired

from IBM Corp.

Mrs. Barnes, a registered nurse, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Estus Mason, Mission Service Corps/Volunteers in Missions coordinators for Mississippi.



Sara and Glenn Barnes

Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the May 5 issue of The Baptist Record: Clay: Hope; Copiah: Pearl Valley; Franklin: Ramah; Lawrence: Antioch; and Yalobusha: Hopewell.

June state CP gifts hit \$2 million mark

Mississippi Baptists had their first \$2 million Cooperative Program month for 1994 in June, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which distributes the funds.

There were two \$2-million-dollar giving months in 1993, three in 1992, one in 1991, and two in 1990. The most ever given in a single month is \$2,421,924, given in January of 1992.

The total amount for June was \$2,121,530, which, added to gifts for the first five months, totaled \$11,257,357 for the first half of 1994.

This six-month total is \$454,885 (or 4.21%) more than that given in the first half of 1993. And the June amount is \$177,666 more than that given in June of 1993.

Pro rata giving for the first half of the budget year is ahead by \$31,357 (or .28%). This means that the 1994 Cooperative Program budget divided by two would be \$11,257,537.

Mississippi Baptists give 37% of their Cooperative Program gifts to Southern Baptist causes outside the state.



PASSING THE TORCH — Jan Johnsonius, missionary to Argentina, gives her country's flag to an Acteen from South Carolina, in a symbolic gesture of passing missionary responsibility to the next generation. Johnsonius and about 100 other missionaries took part in the ceremony during the National Acteens Convention in Birmingham. (WMU photo by Paul Obregon)

Mississippi missionary's appointment was reunion

ORLANDO, Fla. — Missionary appointment became a time of reunion for Sandy Lyle Hammack of Jackson, and the couple for whom she used to baby-sit.

As a teenager, Sandy, daughter of Ken Lyle, now executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England, often kept the two sons of Darwin and Jane Bacon. Bacon was her pastor at Farmingdale Church on Long Island, N.Y., where the Lyles attended while her father was director of missions for the New York metropolitan area.

At the Foreign Mission Board appointment service during the Pastors' Conference in Orlando June 12, both the Hammacks and the Bacons were appointed for missionary service. (See related article, page 3.)

"I used to go to their house all the time," Hammack recalls. "I even stayed with their children when their third son was born."

The Bacons, whose sons are

now grown, will work in Germany, where he will be pastor of an English-language church. He is from Garland, Texas, and his wife Jane is from Eatonton, N.J.

Hammack, now a registered nurse, and her husband Duane, a psychological counselor, both from Jackson, were appointed to do social and outreach ministries in Hong Kong. Her parents, Ken and Judy Lyle, now live in Shrewsbury, Mass.

"I hadn't seen the Bacons or heard from them since I left to go to college," said Hammack, who now has three daughters of her own, 12, 8, and 6.

When she saw her former pastor and his wife receive their appointment certificates, she cried. "It was like my whole life flashed before my eyes, and I realized that God was sovereign even back in the 1970s and knew that we were going to be together again at this appointment service."

Girls get suggestions about finding right guy

BIRMINGHAM (BP) — To 1,400 Acteens, youth minister Scott Neighbors gave the following advice: "To get a godly guy, you've got to be a godly woman."

Neighbors then pointed the girls to Proverbs 31, which describes a virtuous woman, and challenged them to use her as a model.

"If you'll be a godly woman, then godly guys will begin to notice you," he said.

The conference on dating was among 37 on current topics offered at the four-day National Acteens Convention.

Neighbors, who serves at First Church, Pryor, Okla., next introduced his wife Carol who offered practical suggestions on how the girls could be virtuous.

"What kind of guy are you going to date?" she asked, then challenged them to date only godly boys and to pray before they go out.

"What about what you wear on a date?" she asked. "Whatever you wear does not give a guy the right to touch you in a bad way. But guys are visually oriented and you can send the wrong message by what you wear."

Mrs. Neighbors also challenged the girls not to attend R-rated movies, to date guys who would bring out the best in them, and to keep their dating activities "fun and light" to avoid compromising situations.

After she finished her remarks, her husband once again addressed the girls, repeating his encouragement to be godly women.

"It might be fun to be a bad girl for a moment, but the time will come when you have to pay the consequences," Neighbors said. "But even though sin has a price, there is a second chance. You can't regain your virginity but you can cleanse yourself spiritually."

Three generations make dreams come true at NAC

By Tim Nicholas

BIRMINGHAM — Loyce Miles, Acteen director at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, was in the recovery room just after her daughter, Jennifer, was born. Loyce wasn't making a lot of plans at that moment. But her mother was.

Glenda Braswell of Boyle was already planning for the time when baby Jennifer would be old enough to go to a National Acteens Convention (NAC) along with her and Jennifer's mother.

Thirteen years later — exactly 13 years, since Jennifer was to turn 13 on June 23 — the three generations of Acteens enthusiasts traveled from Mississippi to Birmingham for the 1994 NAC.

When her mother brought up the trip, Loyce recalled that "I'd prefer to wait till morning. I wasn't up to the trip just then."

And it's a good thing Jennifer likes Acteens. Otherwise, she'd probably have to change families.

Her grandmother is Acteens director at First Church, Boyle, and is associational WMU director for Bolivar County. Glenda's daughter, Loyce, is not only Acteens director at her church, but is also associational Acteens director for Hinds-Madison Association.

The men in the family support the women in their missions endeavors. Loyce's younger brother, Larry Braswell, has said his first memory is attending a GA meeting. He was crown bearer when Loyce was crowned queen.



ACTEENS APPLAUD SINGER — Contemporary Christian singer Michele Wagner was welcomed to the National Acteens Convention by more than 13,500 screaming teenage girls who attended the four-day event in Birmingham. Wagner wrote and sang the theme song for the meeting, symbolizing the program entitled "Heart for the Journey." NAC, held every five years, was sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union. (WMU photo by Sandy King)

Something must have stuck because he's pastor of Trinity Church, Oak Grove, La., and involved in the appointment process for foreign missions.

Loyce's husband, Hayes, helped provide the cash for the trip to Birmingham and loaded the van. He's been on some mission trips with the church Brotherhood, but he stayed home this time.

Jennifer, an honor student, has worked with her fellow Acteens in giving food to homeless shelters, working at Crestwood Baptist Center in Jackson sorting clothing, and works in the church's puppet ministry. She also has worked four summers with her grandmother in

Backyard Bible Clubs in Bolivar County.

And Jennifer, who went through Mission Friends and GAs, will be crowned queen along with three others at Morrison Heights Church on July 31.

"It's the dream of my life," said Grandmother Glenda. "I get to see her get that crown."

Another granddaughter, Cathryn Braswell, will be old enough to attend the next NAC in five years with her grandmother, "if the Lord lets me stay on my feet," she said.

Then she started counting up how long she'll have to wait to go to a NAC with Jennifer if and when she has a daughter in Acteens. Four generations of Acteens supporters at some future NAC? Why not?

Nicholas is director of Office of Communication, MBCB.

Home missionaries describe unreached people groups

BIRMINGHAM (BP) — Even though America is described as a Christian nation, almost 14,000 Southern Baptist girls and their leaders were reminded that some people in the United States have never heard the gospel.

During the four-day National Acteens Convention at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center, home missionaries Andrew Begaye, Dottie Williamson, Bob Freeman, and Beth Ann Mauney described unreached people with whom they minister.

Begaye works among Navajo Indians in New Mexico. "They have a culture of their own that is rich in religion," Begaye said, "but it is difficult to share Jesus Christ because he is just another god to them."

Begaye asked Acteens to pray specifically for youth ministers to train young people who make Christian commitments.

Williamson, director of multi-housing ministries in Jackson, noted that only 4% of people who live in apartment complexes and mobile home parks attend church.

Acteens can be part of multi-housing ministries by conducting Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, tutoring, cooking classes, and "anything to take the love of Jesus" to residents, Williamson said.

Last summer, Vacation Bible Schools were conducted in 24 apartment complexes in the Jackson area, Williamson said, and more than 200 people made professions of faith.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY — Representatives from Southern Baptists' 37 state and regional conventions lead a 25th anniversary celebration for the Acteens organization during the National Acteens Convention June 21-24 in Birmingham. The giant birthday party was part of the missions education extravaganza, held every five years. The 1994 event attracted more than 13,500 girls in grades 7 through 12. (WMU photos by Sandy King)

HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 14, 1994

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

BAPTIST 101

Why Be Baptist? Part One



As Baptists, we don't think we have the corner on the truth. But we believe we know where to find it—in the Bible. That's our textbook for being Baptists—and for virtually anything else we want to look into...particularly any spiritual matters. We use belief in Jesus as the son of God and belief in the Bible as the Word of God as plumb lines for the validity of other religious groups. □

Spread the Fire

HIS LOVE



Doug Berky
Mime Artist



Pam Thurman
Concert Artist

CANCELLED!

Please note the Ministers/Ministers' Wives School scheduled for Aug. 11-12, 1994 has been cancelled.

We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

Youth Evangelism Conference

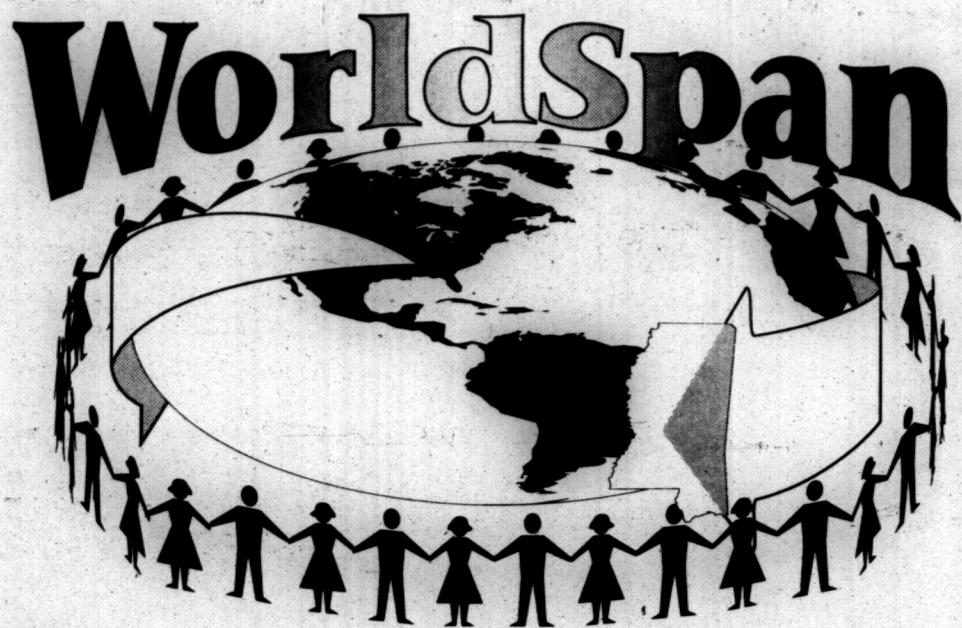
December 29-30, 1994

Mississippi College Coliseum

•••

Thursday, Noon—Friday, 3 p.m.
For further information call or write:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205
(662) 968-3800, ext. 3878.



WorldSpan is a new prayer partnership between Mississippians and missionaries from Mississippi or with Mississippi ties. Letters were mailed to all the missionaries asking if they would like to be a part of such a partnership, and we asked for their prayer requests. Their response has been great, so now we are ready to begin. If you would like to be a part of WorldSpan, we would like to know that you are praying every day, so please return the brief information form as soon as possible. If we have more than 200 responses so that we can use bulk mailing rates, we will send special prayer requests from our missionaries, and updates on prayers answered on a regular basis.

A prayer calendar for WorldSpan is provided simply as a starting point each day. We hope you will join our missionaries in their world through this special effort. Their response to participation seems to indicate that we will have people praying literally around the world every day - indeed, a WorldSpan. Place the prayer list with all your other prayer lists... and pray... it just may be that your prayer will be the one that makes the difference... somewhere in eternity someone may say, "I'm so glad you prayed..."

Suggested Day-of-the-Month Prayer for WorldSpan

Now we know that all months do not have 31 days, but as a common starting point in our daily WorldSpan prayer time, could we use these? Each of us would personalize them and add other needs.

- 1 For missionaries you know who have health problems
- 2 For missionaries who have family members back home with health problems
- 3 For MKs in their witness in the schools where they are on the field
- 4 For MKs in college
- 5 For national pastors with need for training
- 6 For missionaries who work in training and teaching nationals
- 7 For medical missionaries
- 8 For agricultural missionaries
- 9 For music missionaries
- 10 For church-starting missionaries
- 11 For young folks in our churches whom God may be calling to missions
- 12 For volunteers who work around the world
- 13 For stateside denominational leaders
- 14 For Mississippi Baptist Convention Board members
- 15 For Mississippi Baptist Convention Board employees
- 16 For Directors of Associational Missions in Mississippi and their counterparts around the world
- 17 For the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- 18 For the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 19 For the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering
- 20 For the Mississippi Edwina Robinson Special Day Offering
- 21 For missionaries who teach their children at home
- 22 For missionary/government relationships
- 23 For missionary/civic leader relationships
- 24 For media missionaries
- 25 For safety of national Christians and missionaries
- 26 For spiritual growth of new Christians
- 27 For destitute and desolate communities torn by war
- 28 For local church leaders here and abroad
- 29 For joy in the hearts of all of us as we work
- 30 For a sense of God's presence with us each day
- 31 For a dear friend who has special needs

Yes, I'll be a part of WorldSpan!

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Return form to: **Prayer Ministry Office**, MBCB, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Sharing the hope of Jesus with the heart of...

ZIMBABWE

IS IT WORTH THE COST?

by Bill Hardy, Coordinator,
Zimbabwe-Mississippi Partnership

Oftentimes one will hear some complaint about spending funds to go overseas to minister to small groups. When we compare dollars, we often hear, "send the extra money to the missionaries, they can use it more effectively."

Recently Dr. Dwight L. Smith, pastor of West Ellisville Baptist Church, and his wife, Diane, went to Zimbabwe. They were

sent to a bush area in the southwest part of the country to work with the TONGO people. Missionary Steve Taylor, who is assigned to that area, transported them, translated, and provided support.

As a result of their week of personal witnessing, testimonies, and evangelistic preaching, 203 people received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. As a result, a new church was born... "Gayzondo." The missionary will be there to guide the spiritual growth. There will be a national pastor to continue the ministry.

How do you measure the worth of one soul? "How shall they hear without a preacher? How shall they preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:14b-15a)

Opportunities are available. Who will be the next to take advantage of an opportunity? Will YOU?

Contact Bill Hardy at (601) 968-3800, extension 3835



~~Love in any language...~~



*is Jesus Christ. His love is for all people, of all ages.
Southern Baptists are reaching ethnic Americans.
Today 102 language-culture groups are part of the Southern Baptist mosaic.
Language Missions Day • August 14, 1994*

Celebrate!

Celebrate... an unprecedented, God-given missions opportunity

in U. S. - 120 million of 500-plus ethnic groups from around the world who identify themselves as ethnic/ language-culture people in Mississippi - over 45,000 principally from North America, Central America, South America, Asia and Europe

Celebrate... significant, God-given victories

in U.S. - more than 6,000 SBC language-culture congregations/units with 500,000 members from 102 of America's 500-plus ethnic groups worshipping each Sunday in 98 languages and dialects

in Mississippi - 2,500 ethnic/language-culture people speak eight different languages, reached in 60-plus congregations/units and ministries. Hundreds reached each year through three Seamen's Centers

Celebrate Language Missions Day

August 14, 1994

For further information or help contact:
Neron Smith - Language Jim Booth - Deaf

**MISSIONS EXTENSION AND
ASSOCIATIONAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT**
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205
Telephone: (601) 968-3800

Planning for the New Church Year

The following steps will lead the Church Council/key leaders in the process of planning your church program for 1994-95:

• MISSION STATEMENT

(Ask the question, "What does God want us to be and do?" This is the "reason for being." Sometimes called "purpose," "objective," "vision" or other general term.)

• PRIORITY NEEDS

(What are 2 or 3 needs of your church which you will give priorities to the next planning cycle?)

• GOALS

(These are the measurable, dated, achievable "chunks" of the Mission Statement that all Ministries (organizations) can set as their direction in reaching this Mission Statement and fulfilling the purpose of the church.)

• ACTION PLANS

(There will be many. These are the actions the church and its components will take to achieve the goals.)

• CALENDAR EVENTS

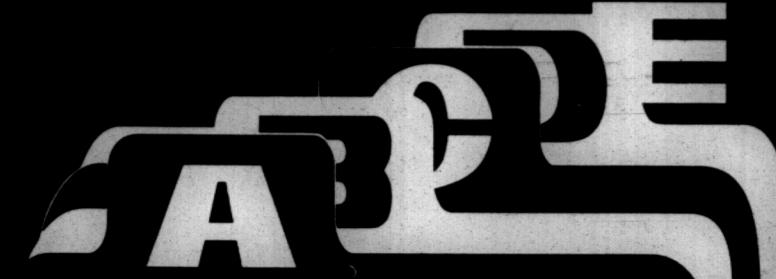
(These are the events to take place in order to accomplish action plans.)

BUDGET

(Only now is a church ready to begin to calculate what monies will be needed to support calendared events, which conduct the action plans, which help reach goals which fulfill our mission.)

Musicians still needed for Central Hills

- ✓ The summer RA camp program at Central Hills Baptist Retreat needs you...and your voice. Dan West, camp manager, is still looking for church choirs, ensembles and soloists who would visit any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evening to participate in worship services there. Especially needed is music on **July 6, July 12, July 19, and July 26.**
 - ✓ Call West at (601) 289-9730.

**BASIC —**

Betty Adams, certified church secretary instructor of the Sunday School Board, and secretary at Northside Baptist Church, Warner Robins, Ga.

ADVANCED —

Sandra Sartor, certified church secretary instructor of the Sunday School Board, and "church secretary on mission" in the Gwinnett County Public School System, Grayson, Ga.

1994 BASIC AND ADVANCED SECRETARY CERTIFICATION SEMINARS

Camp Garaywa, Clinton

August 23-25, 1994

BASIC — Who Southern Baptists are — belief, heritage, purpose, organization

- The unique ministry role of the church-related secretary
- The personal issues that impact her work: self awareness, interpersonal communication, personal goals, and spiritual growth
- How to take charge of the paperwork — from membership rolls to filing systems
- Office communication skills, including correspondence, telephone, and promotion
- The work flow in the office with time-saving shortcuts

ADVANCED — (the two modules offered this year)

- *Ministering in Times of Crisis*
- *Managing Office Stress*

....
McComb
July 27, 1994, 7:00 p.m.
Central Baptist Church
3rd and 21st Street

....
Laurel
July 28, 1994, 7:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church of Sharon
North from Laurel on 5th Avenue or
Exit 104 on I-59 to the Sharon Community

....
Jackson
July 29, 1994, 10:00 a.m.
Baptist Building
515 Mississippi Street

....
Jackson
July 29, 1994, 3:00 p.m.
North Park Mall
(in front of J. C. Penney)
1200 E. County Line Road

The logo features a large treble clef in the center. To its left, the words "Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth" are written along the top edge of a map of Mississippi. Below the treble clef, the words "In Concert" are enclosed in a rectangular box. At the bottom, the year "1994" is displayed in large, bold, outlined digits. To the right of the treble clef, there is a graphic of a person's head and shoulders, facing right, with a large "E" shape overlaid on it. Below the treble clef, the text "No Admission Charge" is printed. At the very bottom, it says "Sponsored by the Church Music Department Mississippi Baptist Convention Board" and "A Ministry of the Cooperative Program Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus".

....
Grenada
July 30, 1994, 6:30 p.m.
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Highway 8 and 51 Intersection

....
Batesville
July 31, 1994, 11:00 a.m.
First Baptist Church
104 - 108 Panola Avenue

....
Columbus
July 31, 1994, 7:00 p.m.
Immanuel Baptist Church
503 18th Avenue, North

....
Jackson
August 1, 1994, 7:00 p.m.
Broadmoor Baptist Church
787 E. Northside Drive



Letters to the editor



Is freedom divisive?

Editor:

A common accusation from some is that the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) is divisive — that the CBF is causing Southern Baptists to divide themselves and align on one side or the other. Those people who have chosen CBF as their means to channel their funds to Southern Baptist causes will disagree strongly with this accusation. However, if free-

dom has become divisive in the Southern Baptist Convention, then I guess that is what CBF is.

Most people involved with CBF can cite time after time when the national (Southern Baptist) Convention leadership chose to divide us from our long-established ways of conducting ourselves.

Was it the CBF that divided opinions on women in church leadership positions? Was it CBF's fault that the Convention reneged on its commitment to fund the Ruschlikon seminary?

Are CBF supporters the only Southern Baptists who don't believe the pastor is the ruler in the local church? Was the CBF to blame for Russell Dilday's firing? Is it the CBF with the "control or else" attitude toward WMU? Are CBF national leaders making plans to take control of 40 state conventions?

As a Mississippian, this last question is the one I most want to address. "Is CBF of Mississippi divisive in the state?" NO! I believe all involved in the state

Fellowship continue to strongly support the Mississippi Baptist Convention. We continue to look for ways to make sure our financial support is maintained at a high level for work within Mississippi's borders.

While I would commend our state leaders for not aligning themselves in the camp that has shown the most divisive efforts, I would also encourage all Mississippians to be aware that ignorance is not bliss. Ignoring the organized efforts that are underway to "control" our state convention will not keep it from happening.

Gene Triggs
Jackson

believers, and seek to worship in spirit and truth will grow. But that growth is God-centered, God-honoring, and God-manufactured.

Many churches today seek to appeal to people rather than focus on God. They construct beautiful buildings that are market-driven, and programs that make it easier for both parents to leave their children to pursue careers and material success... and they accumulate heavy debt.

There is no example in Scripture of God's people borrowing money for any building project. A church that borrows money only reveals what man can do and often deprives God of an opportunity to reveal himself in a miraculous way. Churches that borrow money are forging dangerous alliances with the world and place themselves at risk of compromise. Church debt presumes upon the future and puts the Lord God Almighty to the test.

Churches today should call sinners to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. We should instruct parents that their greatest ministry is to raise godly children, rather than be accomplices in the abandonment of those children. We should reject the god of church growth which is idolatry. And, in case we've forgotten in this world of relative values and "warm fuzzies," idolatry is sin.

Donny Horton, D.V.M.
Ripley

Who invited Falwell?

Editor:

I am approaching the age of Social Security and am becoming more confused about right and wrong. Maybe some of your more enlightened readers could help me.

A woman of ill repute from a small town in Arkansas, has brought charges that President Clinton was associated with her in a "questionable" manner. The President has denied these allegations.

Meantime, I have seen Jerry Falwell appearing on TV many times with this same woman of ill repute selling videos for \$40 (plus shipping). It reminds one of the slave girl in the 16th chapter of Acts who earned money for her masters until God used Paul to set her free. Not only did Falwell use this poor woman to sell his tapes, he lied while selling them. I saw him state that "this will be your last time to order," then the next day he was at it again.

Now comes the annual meeting of the SBC. We hear that our President (a faithful Southern Baptist) was bad-mouthed big time. Then we note that non-Southern Baptist Jerry Falwell has been invited to address the Pastors' Conference! Could someone explain this to a non-theologian such as me? Who invited Falwell and who is paying him? Why do we want his influence in our churches?

Carl L. Hess
Ozark, Ala.

Letter speaks truth

Editor:

[On] Sunday, June 26, a letter to the editor in *The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger* appeared which is worthy of our attention. This letter was written by Connie Lamka, a Jackson resident who by her own admission is not a member of any church. Nevertheless, read her words and compare what she says to the New Testament and see if she is right:

"When a neighborhood becomes troubled, it seems to me that churches should be moving in rather than moving out."

"Though I'm neither a theologian nor a church member, it seems to me that service to the destitute, the hopeless, and the violent is not so much the duty of a Christian as it is the definition of a Christian. Would Jesus have been a credible Christ had he not lived on the fringes of society, had he not recruited among the outcast, had he not befriended the despised, the fallen, the weak?"

"... A church is not a country club; religion is not for cowards."

"People who want safety, rather than salvation, can hide behind their fences for a while, but only for a while. By hiding, they exacerbate the problems."

Have we "passed by on the other side" (Luke 10:31, 32), like the priest and the Levite? Well, a modern-day Samaritan is showing us what we ought to do. What will we do?

Bill Kent Jr.
Meadville

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FOR THE RECORD

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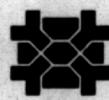
A Look at the Certificate of Need Process

Hospital expansion has been in the news a lot lately. Several Jackson-area medical facilities have sought to add to the services they offer. And we at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center have opposed these additions. Why would anybody be against more medical care, you might ask? It's because adding new services — if they're not needed — will drive up the cost for everyone else.

As you know, medical facilities must pass along to the patients the cost of their specialized equipment. The more people who use a hospital, the lower the cost for each patient. When the existing hospitals are serving as many patients as they can, then there is a need for another facility.

But if there is still ample room for patients at existing hospitals, it doesn't make sense to offer duplicate services in the same city. That duplication results in inadequately used hospitals instead of fully used ones. And that means higher prices.

That's what Mississippi's Certificate of Need process is designed to do: use quantifiable standards to see if there is a need for more hospital services. In the case of River Oaks' birthing center and Methodist Hospital's north campus, the Hinds County Chancery Judge ruled that there just wasn't a need for more services.



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Thursday, July 14, 1994

Just for the Record



First Church, Byram, held its GA Recognition Service on May 25. The theme was "Missions in America." Babs McAlpin is GA director and Carl Prewitt is pastor.

William Carey College Department of Education will hold a creativity workshop on July 19-21. Public school teachers are invited to nominate gifted and talented students to participate. For more information call (601) 582-6139; or write Read Diket, 498 Tuscan Ave., Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

Northside Church, Clinton, will celebrate its 25th anniversary during July. Something special relating to its beginning in 1969 is being planned for the morning service on July 17. The annual dinner on the grounds will be served.

Bayou View Church, Gulfport, celebrated its 13th anniversary on June 19. Charles Corey is

Robert Lambright, 94, dies July 1 in Jackson

Robert L. Lambright, 94, a retired minister, died of heart failure July 1. Funeral service was July 6 at Wright & Ferguson Funeral Home in Jackson, with burial in Ponemah Cemetery in Bogalusa, La.

Lambright was a native of Franklin County, a member of First Church, Jackson, and former director of Youth and Family Ministries for Hinds-Madison Association.

Reared in Bogalusa, La., he attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New Orleans Seminary, and Southern Seminary, and was a graduate of Mississippi College. Lambright taught and coached in Mississippi, Kentucky,

interim pastor.

First Church, Pontotoc, held a note burning on June 19 during the morning worship service.

Mississippi College's radio stations WHJT-FM and WSLI-AM, plus students in the television area of the Department of Communication, have captured 24 Gold and Silver Awards at the recent Mississippi Association of Broadcasters convention held on the Gulf Coast. Bill Lytal is head of the Department of Communication and director of the Learning Resources Center.

The Imperials will be in concert July 21 at 7 p.m. at First

and Louisiana schools, and was a veteran of World Wars I and II.

After entering the ministry, he pastored churches in Alabama and Louisiana, the Ludlow Church, Ludlow, as well as serving with the Home Mission Board. While with Hinds-Madison Association, he helped establish Volunteer Youth Counseling Services in youth courts around Mississippi.

He also served four years with the Mississippi State Senate, writing bills creating the present state parks system and motor vehicles commission.

Lambright is survived by his wife Inez; son Robert L. Jr. of Kansas City, Mo.; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.



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Church, Madison. There is no admission charge. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (601) 856-6177.

Handsboro Church, Gulfport, will celebrate its 120th anniversary July 17. John Dearing, former pastor, will speak during the 10:30 a.m. service. Following lunch, the Handbell Choir from First Church, Biloxi, will present a concert. No evening service is scheduled. Richard Bradley is pastor.



Dearing

ing, former pastor, will speak during the 10:30 a.m. service. Following lunch, the Handbell Choir from First Church, Biloxi, will present a concert. No evening service is scheduled. Richard Bradley is pastor.

Rocky Branch, Bruce, marks 50 years

Rocky Branch Church, Bruce, will celebrate its 50th anniversary July 16-17.

A concert featuring the Bratton Family will be held on July 16 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Activities on July 17 begin with worship at 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds at noon. An afternoon service at 1:30 will feature a concert by the Pontotoc Gospelaires.

For more information, call (601) 983-2210. Tom Burchfield is pastor.

New MBCB ministry begins

The Prayer Ministry Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is initiating WorldSpan, a prayer partnership between Mississippians and their missionaries around the world. Response from a mailout to missionaries born in Mississippi or having special ties with Mississippi indicated their delight and appreciation for beginning WorldSpan. They have sent their prayer requests which will be used on the PrayerLine (1-800-787-PRAY) and in the prayer calendar in the Housetops supplement to **The Baptist Record** from time to time. In the July 14 issue of Housetops, there is a description of WorldSpan and how to become part of this prayer effort.

Homecomings

First, Satartia: July 17; 11 a.m.: dinner in fellowship hall; 2 p.m. singing; Barry Ward, Puckett, guest speaker; Chrissy Cole, Redwood, guest pianist; Wanda Scroggins, organist; Wanda Woods, song director; revival, July 18-22, 7 p.m.; James Allgood, pastor.

First, Pontotoc: July 31; 10:55 a.m.; covered dish on grounds,

Vacation Bible Schools

First, Eudora: July 25-30; 9 a.m.-noon; July 23, preparation day, 9 a.m.; Steve Albonette, pastor.

Trinity, Pearl: July 18-22; 7 p.m.; nursery through adult; call (601) 939-6622 for transportation; Kenny Goff, pastor.

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noon: afternoon singing; Wayne Kimbrough, Jackson, guest speaker; W.H. Sims III, pastor.

Mt. Olivet (Scott): July 17; dinner on the grounds; Randall Creel, guest speaker; revival services through July 20, 7:30 nightly; Travis Polk, pastor.

Mt. Moriah, Bogue Chitto: July 17; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon sing, 2 p.m.; no night service; Tommy Anderson, Pearl, guest speaker; Randy & Janice Carruth, Summit, music; revival, July 18-22, 7 p.m.; Danny Moss, pastor.

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE: New Mexico Girls Ranch near Santa Fe seeking married Christian couples to serve as houseparents in residential group home. Compensation includes room, board, salary and benefits. Send resumes to: Houseparent, P.O. Box 92511, Albuquerque, NM 87109 or call (505) 881-3363 and ask for Personnel Dept.

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JACKSON, LAKESHORE Baptist Church is in search of a custodian. Please send resume to 4207 Rainey Road, Jackson 39212 or call (601) 372-7488.

Names in the News

Todd Stewart, son of Kenneth and Jean Allgood Stewart of Gillsburg, was ordained to the ministry by Gillsburg Church, Amite County, on May 22. William S. Stewart Sr., of First Church, Eupora, preached the ordination message. Mack Amis of Central Church, Brookhaven, gave the charge. Stewart, a senior at William Carey College, is pastor of Robinson Church, Peoria.



First Church, Eupora, preached the ordination message. Mack Amis of Central Church, Brookhaven, gave the charge. Stewart, a senior at William Carey College, is pastor of Robinson Church, Peoria.

Stacy O'Quin, a journeyman ISC volunteer in the Philippines, has a change of address. She will be teaching at Faith Academy in Davao City. Her new address is P.O. Box 80322, Davao City, Philippines 8000.

Society Hill Church, Oakvale, will honor its pastor, Glenn Nelson, on July 17 with a Pastor Appreciation Day. Services will be held at 11 a.m. with Porter Buckley of Columbia as guest speaker. Lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m.

Tinie Slade was honored on the occasion of her 13th year as church secretary at Bayou View Church, Gulfport. She was presented a monetary love gift and a book was placed in the church library in her honor.



Ed Gordon, retired Southern

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Baptist missionary to the Philippines, died June 10 of cancer. He was 77. Funeral service was held in Durham, N.C. Gordon and his wife Audrey served from 1952-83. He is survived by his wife and four children.

Scott Carlin, former assistant Baptist Student Union director at the University of Mississippi, was married July 2 in Baton Rouge, La. He is now BSU director at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette.

Walter Harrelson, former divinity dean at Vanderbilt University and the University of Chicago, will serve a two-year appointment to give shape to the divinity school at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C. He began on July 1.

Heidelberg's Corinth notes 100th year

Corinth Church, Heidelberg, will celebrate its centennial as a church, July 15 and 17, under the theme "Through God's Love."

A singing featuring Wendy Bagwell & the Sunliters and the Houston Road Boys will be held July 15 at 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken at that concert.

Homecoming celebrations will be held July 17. Ed Holloman will deliver the morning message; Philip Herrington will deliver the afternoon message. A covered dish meal will be served at noon.

For more information, call the church at (601) 787-3828. Stanley Doggett is pastor.

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Jackson, Mississippi
Mississippi Baptist Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

Thursday, July 14, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Revival Dates

New Hope, Foxworth: July 17-22; services, July 17, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; July 18, 20, and 22, 7:30 p.m.; July 19 and 21, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; dinner after morning services; David Green, Columbia, evangelist; Drew LeBanc, Tylertown, music; Kent Campbell, pastor.

Malmaison, Carrollton: July 17-22; services, 7:30 p.m.; Willie Weddle, Eupora, evangelist; Kenny Williams, Eupora, music; Sonny Redwine, pastor.

Glendale, Leland: July 17-21; services, 7 p.m.; Walter Butler, Woodland, evangelist; Steve Bennett, Greenville, music; Keith Dendy, pastor.

Calvary, Bogue Chitto: July 17-22; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; dinner on grounds, noon; afternoon service, 1:30; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jerry Welch, evangelist; Philip Alford, music; Gary Sloan, pastor.

D'Lo ((Simpson)): July 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m. Gerald Aultman, evangelist; Bob Harris, D'Lo, music; Robert Sones, pastor.

Calhoun City's Second Church marks 50th year

Second Church, Calhoun City, will celebrate its 50th anniversary July 24.

The annual homecoming day will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Worship will follow at 10:45, and a lunch will be served at noon. Afternoon services will begin at 1:30.

The homecoming will kick off the church's revival week. Revival services will be each evening at 7:30 p.m., July 25-29.

Speaker for the week will be Bill Cox; Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Pitts of Houston, and RoseAnne Schwalenbarg of Vardaman will be in charge of music.

For more information, call the church at (601) 637-2768. Carl Morris is pastor.

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Providence, Jayess: July 17-22; Sunday, homecoming 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; afternoon sing, the Southern Envoy; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Albert Wilkerson, Memphis, evangelist; Ed May, Pike County, music; Mike Alexander, pastor.

Liberty, Noxapater: July 17-22; 7:30 nightly; Winston Association pastors, evangelists; Bobby Parish, pastor.

Arlington, Bogue Chitto: July 17-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; 7 nightly; Ricky Gray, Flowood, evangelist; Gene Hubbard, Florence, music; Wilson Winstead, interim pastor.

North Calvary, Philadelphia: July 17-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; noon and 7 p.m. daily; different speaker each service; Alvin Moore, music; William Keith Fulton, pastor.

Siloam, Meadville: July 17-20; Sam Brassell, Wetumpka, Ala., evangelist; Benny Johnson, music; David Crowe, pastor.

Springfield, Morton: July 17-22; Sunday, homecoming with lunch in fellowship hall; David Sartin, evangelist; Arlis Nichols,

music; Robert Sanderson, pastor.

Enterprise, Liberty: July 17-22; cottage prayer meeting, July 11-15; Sunday, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon service, 1:30; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Shelly Johnston, music; Odell Tebo, pastor.

Johns, (Rankin): July 17-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; James Edwards, Brandon, evangelist; Clay Nash, Brandon, music; Howard Benton, pastor.

Liberty (Mississippi): July 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Ron Kirkland, Amory, evangelist; Price Harris, Shreveport, La., music; Gary Bowlin, interim pastor.

Sturgis (Oktibbeha): July 17-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist; Mike Rogers, Louisville, music; Steve Lammons, pastor.

Souenlovia, Enterprise: July 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Hill, evangelist; special music nightly; Parker Chancellor, pastor.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I am very concerned about violent cartoons, toys, and video games. My nine-year-old son eats all this up. How can I gain control?

Humor in cartoons has been replaced with more realistic forms of behavior, and experts who work with children say all this realism at such an early age is too complex for children. Children need to play and be creative on their own. Watch programs with your son and make comments about the actions and appearances of the characters. This will help your child see things through a different filter than the one the world offers, and it will allow him to respect you more as his #1 role model. Then turn off the TV and play. Go outside, build something together, or let him decide what you will play. Let him decide the rules and allow him to create. As children use their own creative energy, they learn to make their own decisions and become more self-reliant. This also strengthens the parent-child bond.

My office manager is always talking about her personal prob-

lems, and we're all tired of hearing it. She's a nice lady, but we all want to avoid her.

Obviously, you care about her, so the next time she starts her story tell her, "You know I really care but I don't have the answers. Here are the names of some counselors I feel can help you. Give them a call and let me know how it goes." When she starts her story again, kindly interrupt and ask, "Have you talked with any of those counselors?" If her response is no, say, "Remember, I don't have the answers. I'd like to know what the counselor says." Some people strive for attention by getting people to listen to them. She needs acceptance and approval. When she talks about topics other than her personal problems, stop what you are doing and listen. Give your attention to her good points and qualities. She may not go to a counselor, and she may stop talking to you only to tell her story to someone else. You can help there by encouraging other employees to use these same simple techniques. By all means, realize there is a great need underneath.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Uniform God desires obedience



By Richard Bradley
Exodus 19, 20

A covenant is an agreement which is equally binding upon both parties. This is not to say, however, that both parties must shoulder equal responsibilities within the terms of the agreement for a covenant to be established. For instance, the covenant relationship which existed between Jehovah and Israel was certainly unequal. Within the terms of the covenant, Israel would never be able to do as much for God as he had promised to do for his people. Obedience is the one thing God requires of those who enter into a covenant relationship with him.

Basis of the covenant (19:4; 20:2). The covenant relationship which exists between God and his people is based on what God has done for his people which they could not do for themselves. Israel could not deliver itself from Egyptian bondage. Because they were impotent in the face of Pharaoh's power, God rescued them like a mother eagle might rescue her chicks and bear them aloft on her mighty wings (19:4). One doesn't have to look far to find a similar analogy in what God has done for believers. Because we were powerless to do anything about the sin which separated us from God, the Father gave his Son as the perfect sacrifice for that sin and allowed his death to substitute for our own.

Privileges and responsibilities of the covenant (19:5-6a). Upon entering into a covenant relationship with God, Israel would discover that there would be both privilege and responsibility in this relationship. The special benefit of such a relationship would be that they would be God's unique possession. Of all the peoples of the earth, both great and small, Israel would belong to God like no other people. What makes the God of the universe rich? All things already belong to him. It is his relationship with his people, his "peculiar treasure," which makes him rich and it is this very same relationship which also makes the people of God rich beyond comparison.

Israel's responsibility in this relationship would be to consider itself as a holy nation which was uniquely dedicated to the Lord. As a priest considered himself to be dedicated to the Lord without reservation, so Israel was to consider itself as completely dedicated to the Lord as a "kingdom of priests" (19:6a).

The test of Israel's commitment (20:3-4, 7-17). God often calls for his people to put their words into action. It is one thing to give a testimony; it is another thing to live a testimony, however, both are necessary. How would God test the fidelity of the Hebrews' commitment? The Ten Commandments would become a good measuring stick for determining the depth or level of their commitment to God and their covenant relationship with him.

There must be a tangible test which we can apply to our lives to see where we are in our relationship to God. There is still no better test than the Ten Commandments. A lack of respect for the commandments of God betrays an absence of commitment to the One who has given them.

God's commandments (20:1-17). The first four commandments call for God's people to have a right relationship with God and the last six call for right behavior toward fellow human beings. It is interesting to note that God not only demands respect for himself, he also demands that we respect all those made in his image. Later in the New Testament Jesus would equate the treatment of others with the treatment of himself (Matt. 25:40). The same thought is found in 1 John 4:20. To profess love for God and to hate or disrespect those made in God's image is to betray a false profession.

The strength of our commitment to God is tested on a daily basis. The Christian's covenant with God is one of grace, but still there are responsibilities. How well are we keeping our terms of the bargain? Have you tested yourself lately?

Bradley is pastor, Handsboro Church, Gulfport.

Bible Book

Do the wicked suffer?



By Raymond Kolb
Job 15-21

All three of Job's great international friends have spoken. They seem to be wise men with many good things to say, but their theology shows serious flaws and they certainly have not brought much comfort to Job. Unfortunately, you may know some of their spiritual and intellectual descendants today.

The friends have had very little success in convincing Job that all his suffering is a direct result of his sins; nor has he been able to convince them of the opposite. So they all try again with the speakers following the same order as before. If they emphasized God's righteousness, his justice, his love, his integrity in the first round of speeches, now they are on the attack. They emphasize over and over what happens to wicked, sinful men.

Elephaz tells Job that no human being can be as pure and good as he, Job, claims to be. He should abandon his hypocrisy and quit defying God. If not, he deserves to suffer even more and will be surely destroyed.

Job's patience with his friends has about reached the breaking point. "Miserable comforters are you all! Will your long-winded speeches never end?" (16:2-3). His patience with God wanes, too. "Surely, O God, you have worn me out" (16:7). He feels that God has turned against him. Yet, his faith in God keeps bringing him back. Maybe there is something more after death than we have realized. "Even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high. My intercessor is my friend" (16:19-20). Can this be a merely human intercessor and friend? Hardly. If Job's faith and hope sink almost to the depths at times, he bounds back and has those high points when God seems very real. But, even before the end of this speech, he feels almost hopeless again.

Bildad can hardly wait for his turn to speak. He wants Job to shut up, be sensible for a change, and just listen to the wisdom he has to offer. His emphasis is on the downfall of the wicked, shown in the many figures used in his short speech: "The lamp of the wicked is snuffed out.... Light in his tent becomes dark.... His own schemes throw him down...." (Chapter 18). "Net," "snare," "noose," "trap," "terror," "calamity," "death," "fire," etc. are some terms he uses. "Surely such is the dwelling of an evil man... who knows not God" (18:21).

Chapter 19 shows some contrasts in Job's moods as he goes through his trials. In the first part of the chapter he feels that everyone, from God to family to little children, is against him. In the latter part of the chapter he seems to rise above the general belief of his day and hope that he may be vindicated before others after he is gone, but also that he may be personally vindicated by God beyond the grave. Some doubt this because he does not remain on this high plain in the rest of the book. Job was human, just as we are. Do we not still have our spiritual "ups and downs?"

Zophar anxiously awaits his turn to speak. He is angry because of some of the things Job has said about him and the other friends. He again tells Job that he will be utterly destroyed because he is sinful and God will not leave him unpunished.

In Chapter 21 Job again pleads with his friends: "Listen to what I have to say, and then you can mock me if you wish. Just look around. You see the wicked prospering. If your arguments are right, why does this happen? Some enjoy an abundance and also are healthy. Others go through life in poverty. Yet, they are buried side by side and decay in the same way. Why?"

Are we ever guilty of "comforting" our friends or of misrepresenting God with the same kinds of arguments as those used by Job's friends? Is suffering today sometimes a direct result of sin on the part of the one who suffers? Is it always so?

Kolb is a retired missionary living in Clinton.

Life and Work

Distressed, not despairing



By Ruth Allen
2 Corinthians 4

History records the story of a young Christian named Theodorus, a martyr, who was put to extreme torture by Julian the Apostate, a fourth century emperor of Rome. The historian Rufinus tells of meeting Theodorus after the awful experience and of asking him how he endured the horrible pain that was inflicted upon him. His answer was that at first, he could scarcely endure the cruelties, but after a while he became aware of a young man in shining white garments who stood near and wiped the sweat from his forehead with his handkerchief while encouraging him to be of good cheer. So great was this experience that he preferred to stay on the rack than to be released. Jesus has promised never to leave us or forsake us. With this guarantee of nearness, we are able to endure "distress, perplexity, persecution, or being struck down."

Several years ago I visited a Canadian attraction called Science North in Sudbury, Ontario. I was greatly impressed with an exhibit which featured the mining of nickel, for which Sudbury is famous. The sensation of being down in the mine was created so vividly that we actually felt our dependency upon the lights shining from the miners' caps.

In verse 6, I am reminded of the light God has made to shine out of all of his children. He gives to us the light of his glory, in much the same manner Moses experienced when he talked face to face with God. We are assured of the light and presence of God when we are faced with distressful situations. He sees us through and brings forth a solution to all adversity. You and I possess this treasure of light in earthen vessels, the all-surpassing power which is derived from God and is not of ourselves.

When we are confronted with distressful situations, the power of God is manifested through the Holy Spirit. Paul names four situations that cannot be handled by the human will (vv. 8-9). These situations require assistance from God. Troubled means hard-pressed, as in pressing grapes or being caught in a tight squeeze. Troubled derives its meaning from the practice of piling stones upon a victim until all life is squeezed out. However the intensity of distress, outward appearance may seem hopeless, but inward peace overcomes despair. You may be persecuted, but you will never be abandoned. You may be struck down, but you will never be destroyed.

It has been said, "Adversity is the prosperity of the great." In many instances adversity has its advantages, even though they are seldom perceptible at the time. If the Israelites had been well-treated, they might have remained content in Egypt and possibly never allowed God to work out his plan and purpose for them. The oppression and segregation of the Israelites, preventing intermarriages, kept them separate from the Egyptians, and preserved them from idolatry of Egypt. It united them into one nation and bound them together in common sorrows, dangers, hopes, and aspirations. The fire of affliction welded the people of Israel together and made them a strong and powerful nation. How grateful we are for the example of Israel and our American forebears who endured affliction because the light of God shone in their lives!

We would do well to remember that Paul's sweetest epistles were written from prison. John's Revelation was written in exile; John Bunyan wrote Pilgrim's Progress while in Bedford prison; Luther translated the Bible into German while he was incarcerated in Wartburg Castle. The list goes on and on. Truly, "Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage."

The story is told of a poor man's mill and house washed away by a flood. Everything he had was gone. As he stood on the site, heart-broken and discouraged, he saw something shining in the bank where the waters had washed bare. It was gold! The flood which had beggared him now made him rich. No doubt he thanked God for the wealth that had been brought to him. Thus, it may be with many of us. Some day we may thank God for what we thought were calamities.

Paul reminds us the flesh will perish, but the spirit of grace abounds for all eternity. Therefore, may we so live in the Spirit! As we do, more and more we will give thanks and praise which will glorify God's name.

Allen lives in Jackson.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of *The Village View* is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

APRIL 1, 1994-
APRIL 30, 1994

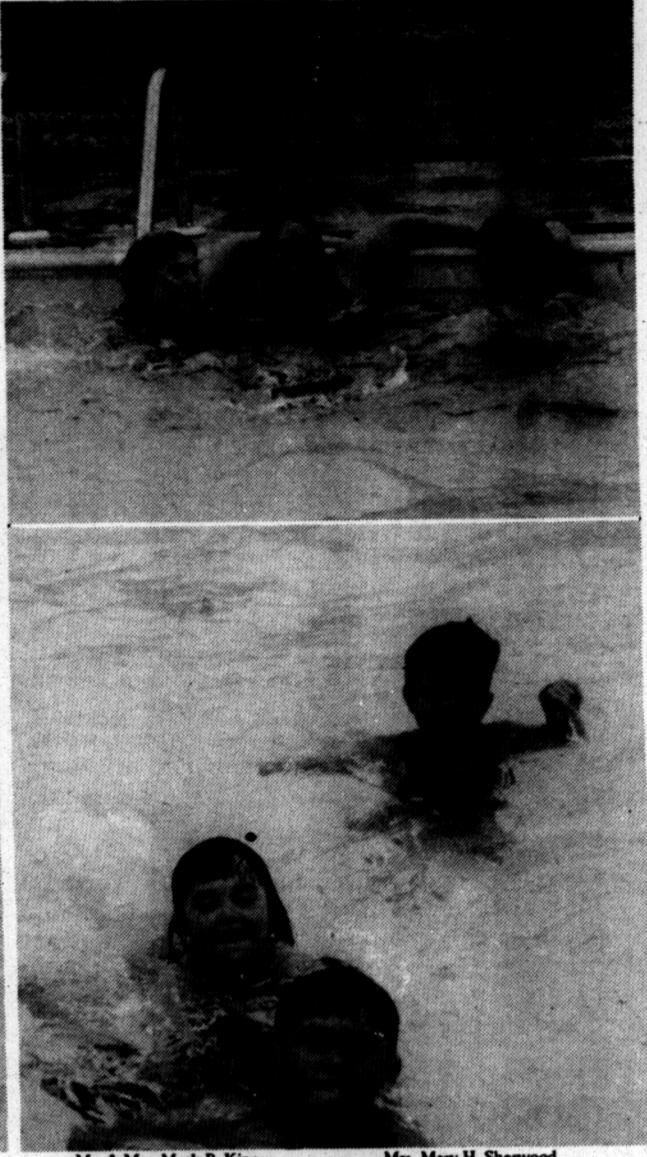
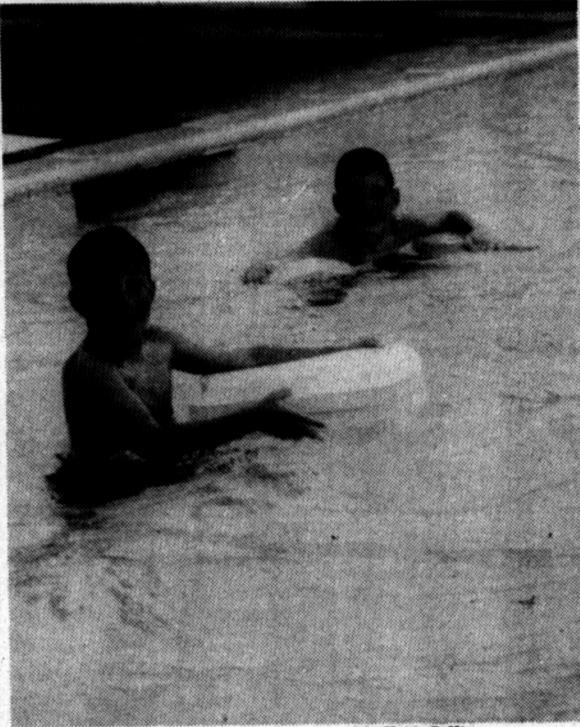
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Summer is definitely here!!!



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Mr. & Mrs. Vence Smith
Mr. Truett Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Bruce Garner
Mrs. Ina Ruth M. Ratchford

(to be continued)



Nine of our older guys and four staff members were treated to a day of deep sea fishing. The generosity of Mr. Perry Atherton of Brandon and Dr. Bill Peters of Hattiesburg was seen in a special way. The recipients of this generosity are still talking about the experience. I am sure it is one they will not soon forget. Pictured is the group, along with the wonderful crew.

Capsules

BAPTISTS IN COLOMBIA AID AVALANCHE SURVIVORS: CALI, Colombia (BP) — Baptists are providing food, medical care, and materials for temporary shelter to some of the 11,000 or more people left homeless by an earthquake and avalanche in Colombia's Cauca state. The June 6 quake has been called the worst natural calamity in Colombia since 1985, when the Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupted and buried the town of Armero, killing about 24,000 people. At least 600 people died and nearly 1,700 are missing and presumed dead in the recent quake and resulting mudslides. About 125 people were injured, according to press reports. A team of Southern Baptist missionaries and Colombian Baptists traveled June 9 to several towns accessible by land to assess needs and how Baptists could help. Some parts of the disaster zone can be reached only by helicopter since the tremor and mudslides wiped out some roads and entire towns. "We tried to talk about spiritual food that will last much longer than the food we gave.... More people wanted Bibles than we had to give to them," said relief worker David Kammerdiener, a Foreign Mission Board music missionary from Lane, Kan. Other missionaries who traveled with Kammerdiener are Arnold Pesssoa, from Morton, Texas, and Rodney Coleman, from Hereford, Texas. All live in Cali, several hours' drive from the Andes Mountains disaster zone. The team worked in cooperation with local officials in the area. Missionary physician Sandra Gustin, from San Antonio, Texas, and a Colombian Baptist physician were to travel to the area June 16 to provide medical care to survivors. The doctors will work several days in Jambalo and Pitayo, towns which received food and supplies from Baptist relief teams.

CLINTON TO GET POSTCARDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM BAPTIST GIRLS: BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — President Bill Clinton will be getting a "picture postcard" view of the country as soon as the U.S. Postal Service delivers the more than 13,500 postcards Southern Baptist teenage girls are sending to him. Clinton, also a Southern Baptist, will find the messages of encouragement and promises of prayer support to be somewhat different from criticism he has received recently from the Southern Baptist Convention. The girls wrote their messages to the President during the June 21-24 National Actees Convention in Birmingham, Ala. The meeting, sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union, is held once every five years for girls in grades seven through 12. The girls were asked to purchase the cards in their home states before coming to the convention.

COOPERATIVE VENTURE TO YIELD BIBLE TRANSLATION FOR GYPSIES: ATLANTA (ABP) — Soon, for the first time, many of the world's Gypsy population will have access to the entire New Testament in their own language. A joint translation and Bible distribution project by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and the United Bible Society will be "a turning point" in the evangelism of the Romany — or Gypsy — peoples in central and eastern Europe, predicted T. Thomas, a Fellowship missionary living near Paris, France. The United Bible Society is completing a translation of the New Testament in Kalderash, the Romani dialect understood by the greatest number of Gypsies. Due to multiple migrations, at least a dozen distinct dialects have evolved in the Romani language, Thomas said. Until now, only portions of the New Testament have been available in Kalderash. The Baptist General Association of Virginia will pay for a first printing of 2,000 Bibles. The Virginia Baptist general board recently approved a mission expenditure of \$11,500 for the project. Keith Parks, the Fellowship's global missions coordinator, said the availability of scriptures in their own language is "the highest priority" of the Gypsy pastors and laypeople with whom he has met.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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PDA HKNZ EO CKKZ, W OPNKJC DKHZ EJ PDA
ZWU KB PNKQXHA; WJZ DA GJKSAPD PDAI PDWP
PNQOP EJ DEI.

JWDQI KJA: OARAJ

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to June 30's puzzle: Micah Six: Eight.

Spurgeon in the house of Sherlock — Tupelo pastor is published author

By Guy Henderson

It's not difficult to find preachers with strange hobbies. For some the hobby is birds, bees, flowers, or riding a big Harley-Davidson motorcycle with the angels. John Armistead, pastor of the Calvary Church, Tupelo, qualifies on the big Harley, but his real hobby is deeper. He writes novels — mystery novels. Butlers are fearful all over the state.

It took him eight months to write his first novel, using his day off, and then several years to have it published. He is no stranger to writing, having written for various Southern Baptist publications. Still, the idea of a mystery novel was on his mind, and he penned *A Legacy of Vengeance*.

Getting it published was another story, but his friend John Grisham gave him some helpful advice and he was on his way.

All the copies were sold out within a few days of release in Tupelo. Reviews began to pour in. Booklist said, "With its terrific use of local color, sound characterization, and strong plot, this fine first novel sets

the table for what one hopes will be a winning series." BookPage called it "a gripping drama and the reader will find it difficult to put the book down." Phyllis Harper of the Northeast Mississippi Journal called Armistead "a learned man with a literate bent, he is a gifted storyteller and craftsman."

Armistead has pastored the Tupelo congregation for 15 years. Calvary Church has been a pacesetter in mission activities and support. Presently the church is constructing a new worship center to replace an old building lost in a fire. Armistead says the writing hobby and the motorcycle have opened doors and given an entree with people who ordinarily would not talk with a minister.

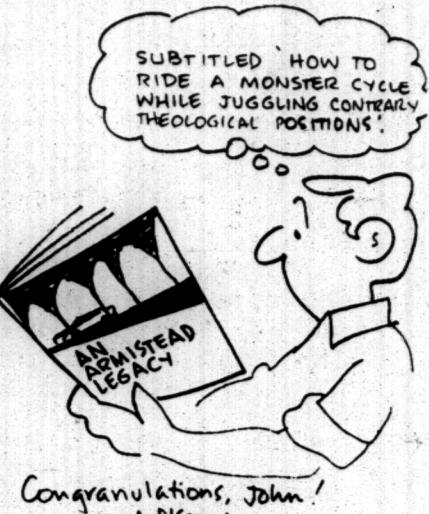
"I've been invited to various civic clubs and other meetings because I met people off the beaten path," he said.

Armistead is a busy man. He is full-time pastor of a large church — his pastoral duties are many. He prepares sermons, visits the hospitals, counsels with those in need, and carries out all the administrative duties of the church.

However, on his day off or perhaps in the deep of the night when a rainless cloud drifts across the full moon, whodunit is on his mind, and a mystery is aboming. He picks up his pen and writes.



Armistead



Camp Sister Spirit —

Hearing on lesbian retreat brings defenders, opponents to Jackson

By William H. Perkins Jr.

People in Jones County simply do not want a large lesbian retreat in the Ovett area, several local residents told Congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass.) during a July 6 hearing in Jackson.

Frank, an admitted homosexual and chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, called for the hearing after complaints from Brenda and Wanda Henson, the lesbian couple running Camp Sister Spirit, that they were being threatened and harassed by people opposed to the 120-acre encampment in rural southeast Mississippi.

The Hensons have accused opponents of draping a dead dog over their mailbox, spreading nails in their driveway, shooting at the camp from nearby woods, and many other acts of intimidation.

James Hendry, leader of Mississippi for Family Values, told Frank and Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) that he is opposed to the "commercial enterprise" on the Hensons' property and offended by efforts to "mischaracterize our community and our state."

He also said opposition leaders

have counseled against acts of harassment and violence directed toward the retreat.

Hendry testified that the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of opposition leaders were apparently supplied to national homosexual and lesbian publications, which resulted in obscene calls and letters directed at him and other leaders.

Frank clashed several times during the hearing with First Church, Richton pastor John Allen, who told Frank he is against Frank's idea of expanding civil rights protection to homosexuals and lesbians during the 1995 congressional session.

Allen produced a sheet of letterhead stationery entitled, "Camp Sister Spirit Feminist Education Retreat," in which New Augusta attorney Paul Valley, Allen, and Hendry were listed as leaders of the "opposition hate group."

"We do not hate the Hensons or anyone else. My greatest desire for them... is that they might experience the life-changing redemption found in a genuine faith surrender to Jesus Christ," Allen told Frank.

Mississippi Congressman Mike Parker (D-Miss.), whose district

includes the Ovett area, has repeatedly criticized Frank's interference. Parker has also spoken at anti-Camp Sister Spirit rallies.

For more information on Mississippi for Family Values, write to P.O. Box 37

005-DTM 291 SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SO 00
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Baptist Record

July 14, 1994